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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No. 26.2.C20/USA

In re Application of:)	
Joseph J. Walto et al.)	
Serial No. 09/560,308)	
Filed April 27, 2000)	Group Art Unit 3652
For TRACKED COMPACT)	Examiner
UTILITY LOADER)	

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The Honorable Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the Applicants wish to bring the prior art references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 to the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office. Copies of the prior art references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are enclosed.

A concise explanation of the relevance of some of the references is additionally provided as follows:

U.S. Patent D359,497 to Rayner shows a wheeled compact utility loader having a platform at the back, which platform is visible in Fig. 3 of Rayner, on which the operator stands while the loader is operated.

Page - 1 -

Certificate under 37 C.F.R. 1.8. I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with sufficient postage with the U.S. Postal Service, as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on 1/16/01.


James W. Miller

U.S. Patent 5,064,011 to Ogano shows a tracked truck having a pivotal load carrying table 61. The operator walks behind the Ogano truck while holding the handles 2.

U.S. Patent 5,423,654 to Rohrbaugh shows a tracked utility loader which the operator controls while walking behind the loader. See Col. 6 of Rohrbaugh, Lines 53-56. Rohrbaugh is further described in the Background of the Invention section of the above-identified patent application at Page 1, Lines 16-26.

Japanese Patent 61-205564 to Sadaji is similar to Ogano et al. and shows a tracked machine having a slidable load carrying table 18. See Fig. 2 of Sadaji. The operator walks behind the Sadaji machine while holding the handle 7. Note the attached English language Abstract for the Sadaji publication.

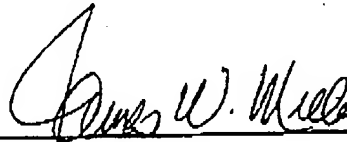
Toro Dingo Rubber-Over-Tire Tracks Brochure shows a tracked compact utility loader previously manufactured and sold which is similar to the loader shown in Rayner in that the operator stands on a rear platform while operating the loader. See the photograph located beneath the phrase "Model 22662" which clearly shows the operator standing on the rear platform. While this loader had ground-engaging drive wheels on either side thereof, the loader could also be equipped with a set of tracks that were installed over the drive wheels as shown in this brochure. In fact, this brochure is an advertisement for the tracks.

While this particular brochure is dated 2000, the assignee of this invention ADMITS that the loader shown in the photographs and the use of rubber-over-tire tracks as shown

in this brochure is prior art to the above-identified application. In view of this admission, this piece of prior art is entitled to consideration by the Examiner.

The summaries of the references provided herein are for the Examiner's convenience only. The Examiner should also thoroughly review each reference to independently determine its relevance. It is believed that the claims of the present application are allowable over the cited prior art.

Respectfully submitted,



January 16, 2001

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